

Introduction

Congratulations!

You are to be commended for your interest in being baptized in the beautiful name of Jesus Christ. We are living in a world that is overrun with apathy towards the word of God, yet only through His word can we find God's will for our lives. When our heart is open and teachable, and when our spirit is hungry for Him, there is no limit to the goodness He can bring. The Bible tells us:

I Corinthians 2:9-10

.... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

As the Lord begins to reveal Himself to us, our love for Him grows into a realm we never knew existed. The things He has prepared for them who love Him cannot be measured by our human understanding. The blessings awaiting those who serve God are far beyond anything we have ever seen or heard. Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is a major step towards bringing the promises of God into our lives.

Since baptism is a necessary step towards our salvation, it requires serious consideration. That is why we have prepared this booklet. When you are baptized in Jesus name, God will make certain commitments to you, your Pastor and the church will make certain commitments to you, **and** God expects **you** to make certain commitments to Him. For the person who has repented of their sins, these commitments are not difficult. Jesus said,

Matt 11:29-30

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

The commitments we make to Him are easy because His "yoke is easy", and His "burden is light". James said:

James 3:17

17 But the wisdom that is from above is..... easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits.....

“Easy to be intreated” means easy to obey. Serving God is such a joy, even the commitments God asks of us seem insignificant when compared to the blessings He gives!

The day you are baptized in Jesus name will become a “red-letter day” on your calendar. It will mark one of the greatest beginnings of your life, and you will have great joy knowing, that through Jesus name baptism, all of your sins have been washed away forever.

Baptism, A Quick Study

In these few pages, you will find valuable scriptural teachings on the subject of baptism. It is a blessing to understand what baptism in Jesus name accomplishes, and what God makes happen when we are baptized in his wonderful name!

First of all, we must understand that baptism in Jesus name is essential to our salvation. When we *have not* been baptized in Jesus name, we have not yet....

- obeyed Jesus
- been born again of the water
- received the remission of sins
- been buried with him
- obeyed the Gospel

We will see all of this from scripture. Let's begin.

We must obey Jesus:

He that believeth *and* is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Mark 16:16

Here Jesus tells us of at least two conditions for salvation; believing and being baptized. He then said, "... he that believeth not shall be damned". He didn't mention baptism a second time because someone who doesn't believe will obviously not be baptized.

We must be born again of the water.

In John chapter three we find Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, coming to Jesus at night. Nicodemus recognized that Jesus' teaching was from God. Immediately Jesus began to talk to him about salvation.

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily (truly, truly), I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Two verses later, Jesus elaborated further on being born again.

John 3:5

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

From the Lord's teaching here, we know that in order to go to heaven, we must be born again of the water and the spirit. Jesus did not tell Nicodemus *how* to be born again of the water and the spirit; that was left to the Apostle Peter. In Matthew 16:19, Peter received from Jesus the *keys* to the kingdom of heaven. The keys are the words to preach that open heaven. Peter first did this in Acts 2:38:

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Jesus said we must be born again of the water if we are going to go to heaven. Peter, who had the keys to the kingdom of heaven, told us to be baptized "*every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.*" When we are baptized in Jesus name, we fulfill Jesus' command to be born again of the water. *Baptism is for the remission of sins.*

When looking at Acts 2:38 (above), we should also notice that when we are baptized in Jesus name, we receive the remission of sins. Remission means *to receive a pardon, or dismissal* for our sins. It comes from a root word which means *to send away*. It is a wonderful feeling to know that all your sins have been *pardoned* and *sent away*.

We must be obedient to his burial.

The gospel, Paul said, is the *death, burial, and resurrection* of Jesus Christ:

1 Cor 15:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, *I declare unto you the gospel* which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how *that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

4 *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

Paul gave a strong admonition in II Thessalonians:

II Th 1:7-8

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and *that obey not the gospel* of our Lord Jesus Christ:

This is a very strong teaching that we *must* obey the gospel! But how do you obey a *death, burial, and a resurrection*? The Bible tells us how! In two scriptures, we learn how to be obedient to his burial. Notice:

Rom 6:4

4 Therefore we are *buried with him by baptism* into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Col 2:12

12 *Buried with him in baptism*, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

The Bible is crystal clear than when we are baptized in Jesus name, we are *buried with him*! The word *baptize* comes from the word *bapto* which means *to overwhelm, to cover wholly with a fluid*. So we know this is talking about water baptism. When you are baptized in Jesus name, you are buried *with Him*!

Baptism is a beautiful experience. It will be a day you will never forget. When you are baptized in Jesus name, you will marvel at the freedom and peace you feel in your heart. The only thing that sends people to hell, is sin. Jesus' plan for our life, begins with taking away our sins. That's why he came!

God's Promises to You

When we are baptized in Jesus name, God makes two very important promises to us.

- First of all, God promises to *forget* our sins.
- And, He promises us our own special place in His church.

No one but God can forget perfectly. When He forgets our sins, he never remembers them against us again.

Heb 10:16-17

16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

17 *And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

When we are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ *for the remission of sins* (Acts 2:38), God sends our sins away. He forgets them forever!

Ps 103:12

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions (sins) from us.

I have asked Bible study students where is the end of north? or south? and they have answered the north or south poles. However, there is no end to east or west, they just keep going. When God sends away our sins, it is impossible to find them again!

Next, God promises us a place in Him (His church). When we are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, we are baptized *into Christ*, and we *put on Christ*. Notice:

Gal 3:27

27 For as many of you as have been baptized *into Christ* have *put on Christ*.

Because the word *baptize* means *to overwhelm, to cover wholly with a fluid*, we know this verse is talking about water baptism. When we are baptized in Jesus name, we are baptized *into Christ*. In other words, we are baptized *into* the world wide body of Christians who have been born again of the water and the Spirit.

The phrase *put on Christ* means we put on Christ as we put on a coat. When we put on Christ, we are putting on Jesus' life of righteousness. When Adam and Eve sinned, they felt their need to be covered and sewed aprons of fig leaves (Genesis 3:7). This covering was not adequate, so when God came to them, he provided them *coats of skins* (Genesis 3:21). Just as the coverings for Adam and Eve came from a death, so does our covering. Jesus died for us on a cross, and because He gave Himself for us, his life becomes a covering for our life. When God looks at us, he no longer sees our sins and failures, instead, he sees the righteous life of Jesus Christ!

The Bible tells us,

2 Cor 5:17

17 if any man be *in Christ*, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new(*means brand new, previously non-existent*).

and.....

1 Cor 12:27

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members *in particular*.

If the creation God makes us into is *brand new and previously non existent*, and we become members (of His body the church) *in particular*, then God has a particular place for us in His church! That place forever belongs to us. It is uniquely ours, and can never be filled by someone else!

The Churches Promises to You

Your local church, Revival Tabernacle, will become the “hub” of your experience in God. Revival Tabernacle will provide you a place to grow and develop into a fulfilled and productive member of the body of Christ.

In Acts 2:38-42, we find the 7 tenants of the Christian faith:

Acts 2:38-41

38 Then Peter said unto them, *Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the *apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

When we *repent*, get *baptized in Jesus name* (born again of the water), and *receive the Holy Ghost* (born again of the Spirit), we have completed the new birth and been born *again* into the church. After we have fulfilled verse 38, there are four more tenants of the faith we must have. The church will provide you with the opportunity to receive each of these. They are:

1. The Apostles doctrine

The book of Acts is the only book in the New Testament where we can *see* the Apostles ministering to the *unsaved*. It is the only book in the New Testament where we can actually *see* someone being born again. The 21 books following Acts are called the *Epistles*. Epistle is the Greek word for letter, and these books are just that. Letters. They were written to churches located in Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, etc. Since these books were written to established churches, it is here that we have the ministry of the Apostles to those who

are *saved*. And it is here that we find the *Apostles doctrine*. Through worship services, Sunday School, and Bible study, the church will provide you the opportunity learn the *Apostles doctrine*.

2. Fellowship

When we become a part of the church, we have many brothers and sisters in Christ. The love that grows between people in the body of Christ is unparalleled in the world. Some of the most joyous times we have are spent in the company of one another.

3. Breaking of Bread

This refers to Communion. A sacrament is a *visible form of an invisible grace*. There are two sacraments in the New Testament church: Baptism and Communion. Because communion relates to the yearly Passover in the Old Testament, we take communion once a year on New Year's Eve. We call this service *Watchnight*. It is a beautiful way to send out the old year, and bring in the new. Communion in the church may, of course, be taken at any time, and provision is made for that.

4. Prayer

One of the greatest revelations a new Christian can receive is *prayer*. Our love and commitment to God and the church will grow as our prayer life grows. A prayerless life is an unfulfilled life. There is nothing in this world that compares with individual communion and fellowship with God. Prayer!

Our service to God is defined by our service to our local church, Revival Tabernacle. It is our place to grow, and to work for God. When God called us, He called us to be a servant and a laborer. Revival Tabernacle has many ministries that you can and should become a part of. Your Pastor, and the Leadership Team are all here to help you grow, and to have a productive and fulfilled life in God. We are available to you! We love you, and we care!

Your Promises to God

Just as God and the Church both make promises to us, we must make promises in return. The Bible tells us:

2 Pet 1:10

10 give diligence to make your calling and election sure...

There are many things in life that require *diligence*; our marriages, raising our children, caring for our careers, maintaining our homes, our automobiles, and the list goes on. But none of these things are as important as *making our calling and election sure*, in other words, *being saved*! In Mark 14:21, Jesus spoke of some people who were unsaved, and said that it would have been better for them if they had never been born. The same could be said today of anyone who does not *diligently* attend to their salvation.

Initially, there are several things that God will require of you. You *must* make these commitments *before* you are ready to be baptized. These initial commitments are:

- Repentance of all sin
- Separation from the world
- Faithful and consistent attendance to Church

The Bible tells us:

Heb 9:27

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

Death is an appointment none of us can escape. Judgement is an experience we will all face. We will all stand before the Lord to give an account, and we will be judged by our obedience to the Word of God. With that in mind, let's look at the importance of each of the commitments listed.

We must repent of all sin. The word repent means, "*to change one's mind or purpose, to think differently, to reconsider*". When the New Testament speaks of *repentance*, it is speaking of repenting of sin. The word repent comes from a root word which means: *to comprehend* and *to heed*. Jesus said:

Luke 17:3

3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

Here, Jesus was instructing His disciples regarding their response to someone who had *trespassed* against them, or offended them. His instruction was to *rebuke* (reject) those who who did not repent, and to *forgive* those who did. Since

this is His word, we know if we do not repent, He will *rebuke* (reject) us; if we do repent, He will *forgive* us. We learn in the book of I John:

I Jn 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We are living in a world that has numbed itself to the teachings of the Word of God, which will judge all men. People casually smoke, drink, lie, use drugs, curse, live immorally, and the list goes on. This is because the Bible teaches that in the last days, evil will become worse and worse. These sins the world seemingly ignores, have always been, and are still great trespasses against God, and the very reason Jesus died on a cross. He died so we can be forgiven! Not only will he forgive us, he will wash away all the memory of our sins when we are baptized in Jesus name!

Jesus was very clear when he taught on the subject of *repentance*.

Luke 13:3-5

3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Here we see two identical verses teaching us that if we do not repent, we cannot be saved. When you are baptized in Jesus name, all of your sins are washed away. God literally forgets them! and He does not want us to pick them up again. If we stumble, He will forgive us, but we must be determined in our heart that we are going to forsake all sin!

Since we have repented of our sins, we must commit to remaining separated from the world. The Bible teaches:

2 Cor 6:17

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

As time passes, the world is getting further away from God. If we are to be saved, there are many things in the world that we must separate ourselves from. If we do not separate ourselves from the sinful things of the world, we will remain separated from God. The definition of being lost is *eternal* separation from God. Hell has been prepared for those who are to remain separated from God throughout eternity. Notice:

I Jn 2:15-17

- 15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**
- 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**
- 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**

The world is filled with things that appeal to the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, or our pride. But when we fall in love with the Lord, this appeal begins to fade, and is replaced with the joy of being a real Christian. Your Pastor, and the Leadership Team are here to help you, and your faithful attendance to church and Bible study will help you understand the importance, and the joy of living a life separated unto God.

The third commitment we *must* make before baptism, is the most important of all. It is essential that we be committed to faithful and consistent attendance to church. When we are *not* faithful to church, we literally remove God's access to our lives. God is committed to talking to us through the ministry:

Eph 4:11-13

- 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;**
- 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**
- 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:**

God gave the ministry for (1) our *perfection* (completion), (2) to *edify* (build) us, (3) to bring us into *unity* with the church, (4) to give us *knowledge* of the Son of God, and (5) to help us grow into a *measure of His stature*. When your Pastor or another Revival Tabernacle Minister, or a visiting Minister preach or teach, it is for the purposes listed in the above scripture. And where do they preach and teach? At church! This is why we provide in Bible studies, including New Converts and Beginners classes, on Wednesday night; Youth Services and activities on Friday night; in depth Bible teaching for all ages on Sunday morning; and Sunday night is our time for celebrating what God has done for us, is doing, and will do! We call this service *Sunday Night Live!*

Notice the following verses:

1 Cor 1:21

- 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**

It is preaching that saves us. Where do we get preaching? At church!

Heb 10:24-25

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
25 *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

The Bible specifically tells us not to forsake the *assembling of ourselves together*. When do we assemble ourselves together? At church!

1 Pet 2:2

2 As newborn babes, *desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

It is a natural condition of any newborn babe to desire milk. When we are truly born again, we will desire the *sincere milk of the word*. Through the preaching and teaching we receive the word *at church*.

Eph 4:14-15

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
15 But speaking the truth in love, *may grow up into him* in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

2 Pet 3:18

18 But *grow in grace, and in the knowledge* of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is God's desire that we grow in our Christian experience. When we receive and apply the Word of God, which is taught by our Pastor (our shepherd) *at church*, we will grow.

And finally, the Bible teaches us...

Rom 1:17

17 For therein is *the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

As we progress from one faith opportunity to another, we will grow into the discovery that God is so much greater than we have ever imagined.

Years ago I taught a 10 lesson Bible Study to a young couple, but it was another several years before they came to God. After they had been born again, the young man asked me, “Why didn’t you tell me that serving the Lord was this good?”

Actually, I had spent 10 Bible lessons doing just that, but it wasn’t until they surrendered and obeyed God’s word, that they were able to make their own discovery *that God is so much greater than they had ever imagined!*

You are about to begin the same journey, and I am not afraid to promise you *that God will be so much greater than you have ever imagined!*

God will always be here for you.

Revival Tabernacle is here for you... And I am here for you
because I love you... and I care!

God Bless You on your journey,

Most Sincerely,

Pastor Kerr
Revival Tabernacle

Notes:

1